

# **ID 1375 | GOMM PARK. INEFFICIENT MANAGEMENT (DUE TO) AND CAPITAL PRESSURE, SOFTENED BY THE COMMUNITY AND COLLECTIVE CREATIVITY**

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## **1 INTRODUCTION, OBJECTIVE AND CONTEXT**

The article demonstrates the challenges faced by a Collective when it claimed back a communal space - with a strong social and cultural salience, high environmental interest, which had previously been protected -but was 'escaping' via financial and capital pressure. This had been occurred in Curitiba, a city which call itself 'socially and ecologically just" The space in question is the Gomm Park, comprised by Casa Gomm (1913) -a unique house, built in Massachusetts style -and its bosk, both listed as Parana's Cultural Heritage.

This paper will provide remarkable records, from press articles and interviews , to fragments of social media posts from 'Salvemos o Bosque da Casa Gomm' (Help The Gomm's House Bosk) -the group who decided to fight for the communal heritage and the immaterial resource the "space" now represents.

The relationship between people and power, when this is a part from those, it's the so called democracy. The Greeks, in Agora, met and decided, with one vote each, all the subjects in the current agenda. Time took its toll and weakened this dynamic, but its essence lasts in all current democracies, either direct or indirect, which are sometimes consensus others subjected to maneuver of power, depending whether people's influence in decision making is high or low.

On evolved democratic societies we are faced with people's participation and transparency templates, which aim to provide better life quality with consensus use of public resources, and as consequence, increase social and justice equality.

Many theories and templates such as 'Gobernanza2.0' or 'open government' provide examples of thought and design of successful methodological process, but the kickstart to positive results can only be reached through will and detachment of the constituent power, otherwise conflicts of interest will always be extinguished without resignation, and in most cases, in favour of few against the collective interest.

According to Manuela Carmena , "urban litigation, in case of subject to the Justice, produce a complicated outcome, because the Commercial Justice, which adjudicate on process related to City disagreements, is now misplaced when it comes to adjudicate any urban process, therefore a new approach should be taken when judging urban conflicts, such as territorial, social, environmental, etc".

The objective is to expose the reality and make a statement for the next public administration regarding the importance of people's voice and wishes, instead of ceding in favor of power and speculative capital.

## **2 "THE HISTORY"**

Curitiba, a city of explored by Portuguese colonization -similar to many other Brazilian cities in the upcoming year 1808 -when the raw materials of the South region of Brazil, like wood and yerba mate, produced wealth to their masters, and foster the emergence of an local aristocracy, the country houses and mansions of the Batel, neighbourhood along with Alto da Glória, where are the main "surnames" of the city.



Figure 1: picture of Gomm's House when lived the Gomm's family. - Facebook Salvemos o Bosque da Casa Gomm

Batel, even today, is the neighbourhood of Curitiba, with highest income per capita among all districts of the city and many other favorable economic indicators.

At the beginning of the 20th century, English industrialist Henry Gomm -married with Isabel Withers Gomm, creator of the Red Cross in the State of Paraná -had business of yerba mate in Antonina.

In 1913, inaugurates the wooden house in a grove of Batel district. In the years 1930/1940–Harry Blas Gomm, son of Henry and Elizabeth, marries Luisa Bueno, daughter of diplomats. The couple settles in Curitiba and going to live in the mansion of Batel Avenue. The mansion becomes a meeting place for foreigners, intellectuals and industrialists. Blas becomes British Consul in Paraná (Figure 1).

In the years 1950, 'Monsieur Le Consul to Curityba', composed by Marc Hevral (one of the abitués of the Gomm's House ), Fernand Vimont and Henry Le Marchand, sing in the French radios and takes the Grand Prize of the French song, from that era.

In 1958 (Figure 2), Luisa Gomm moves to a different part of town, named Los Angeles Gardens. The "Gomm's House" is then rented out to third parties. Louise Gomm dies in 1986.

"Built in Curitiba in 1913 like a Massachusetts style with boards of Araucaria, anglo-brazilian family. A 'single' in the architecture and landscape of the city, even more unique because it accompanied by a magnificent, verdant forest (which was inseparable). A House with a rich cultural history"



Figure 2: picture fragment 'view of bird' taken by Cid Distefani (1936-2015) in 1958, where the center see the Wood and the Gomm's House. -Gazeta do Povo. Nostalgia column. Own Eddition.

The decline of the extractive economy with the emergence of industrial processes, put an end to many economic interests, you haven't heard see or boost your business. The Gomm, were a few of them.

"The property was sold by the family in the early 1980, when the City of Curitiba then tried to establish there the Batel Park (1987), which today would be a Central Park in a verticalized urbe. However, the new owner defeated the city, knocking over the Public Utility Decree for the building on highest instance of Brazilian Justice. In 1989, the brick and mortar Gomm's House, and its bosk were, listed by the Historical and Cultural Heritage of the State of Paraná, which in principle 'protected' it from destruction. But it still wasn't enough.

The bosk would be gradually cut in subsequent years, losing its splendor. The House, little by little, was almost destroyed by 'greedy and exotic termites'. All too soon it almost became a hotel or a convention center or a club etc. Many projects were drawn and later discarded, due of limitations arising from the listing Decree.

But the solution is not going to fall from the sky.

Years later, the same State of Paraná which had listed the House agreed to misrepresent the Listing Decree: the House would be dismantled (to be 'treated') and reassembled in the back of the old family property Gomm, where before there were stables for horses, near the bottom Valley of Ivo River. The bosk, drastically diminished, and became 'squeezed' into a specific real estate registration, as a result of the break-up of the area in five batches. The House would then be donated to the State of Paraná and the bosk and gardens donated to the Municipality.

In the midst of all this, the result is a huge piece of land, 'free' from the burdens of the listed building and its bosk, for which it would be possible to be built in its entirety in titanic proportions.

It was a sophisticated 'bypass' to the listing regulations, signed off by State Governor Jaime Lerner.

In 2013, with the great 'Mastodon' shopping center about to inaugurate, the leftovers of the Heritage would be once again massacred by the opening of an asphalt street for cars, in a project approved by IPPUC and the coordination of the Cultural Heritage of the State of Paraná (same body that protected House and Bosk in 1989).

Help The Gomm's House Bosk (SBDCG), stood-up and said No to this street. One of the main arguments put forward at the time, was that a street would eventually finish segregate the House from its enveloping area (bosk and gardens), creating a mere simulacrum, permanently surrounded by cars in motion -and not a garden to give it some sense, as stated in the Listing Decree of Parana's Cultural Heritage"

Earlier, in mid-2011, the IAB-PR (Institute of Architects of Brazil-Paraná), took a proactive attitude in formally addressing the owner of the real state, the Shopping Patio Batel, to proposal a partnership and make public use of the House and the remaining forest (not that one listed in the Decree).

Maybe if the proposal had been accepted, it could have democratized the space, unfortunately the shopping had already been inaugurated. We transcribe below what had been the proposal (item 3 of the document), which included also the Design Center Batel.

"Draw up a STUDY to identify the conditions and provide technical solutions to facilitate the unification of the remnants of 'Batel's Bosk', installation of new urban equipment, allowing the local population and also customers of two shopping centers to make use of the space as leisure equipment, adding value to enterprises.

Prepare the STUDY with a view to transforming the Gomm's House in cultural equipment to the memory of architecture and Batel District, as part of the activities of both commercial enterprises".

"The urban design as a tool for planning, if facing the powerful forces of the speculative capital appropriates of the city. The urban property becomes the object of transfer and concentration of capital and globalizes the great metropolis. The town became object of purchase of major investors."

### 3 "EL ESTADO DEL ARTE"

The forms of governance today, seek to encourage community participation, as a best practice for the governance of cities, which told us Carlos Giménez "have always been adverse and diverse", thus the inequality is not something that occurs by chance but something political and therefore must be planning something equally political.

"The city is a human and collective creation, so politics and should be regulated by legal landmarks, that there are not always satisfactorily."

Among the first milestones for participatory urban planning, is the Alborg Letter that came to be the screen for formatting of Agendas21 and soon Local Agendas 21 or AL21. This important initial step to adopt a participatory policy in the early 1990 was and is crucial.

The municipalities that today lead 15 to 20 years or more, with use of local agendas, already have a vision beyond the processes of AL21, where raise issues such as information and transparency and the renovations to Open Government, participative democracy and transparent rendering of accounts.

The sense of participatory democracy is seen to form intra-administrative (personal, economic and legal), with actions and results, with updated systems of indicators and constant visibility of the impacts of AL21 governance.

In this sense, the new technologies (in particular the Apps) for dissemination and communication are very useful, as well as GIS for timely diagnosis and planning are among others.

The current demands of society, require more and more issues such as transparency of public administration and popular participation, especially when it comes to large projects or strategic projects to a municipality or a region, otherwise not work agreed upon nor did appropriate to the results obtain.

Alberto Ortiz de Zarate Tercero suggests different scenarios of citizenship, on considering the form of activity of the Government and the scope or surroundings where they are inserted, generating active or passive and civic citizenship.

However, if there is a simple structure, enabling mechanisms for governance and popular participation, which guarantees to associations and citizens, cooperation and democratic practices, independent and autonomous administrations and technicians (working groups and academia), they can apply their knowledge, standards, mechanisms of action with transparency, could reach a successful conclusion.

This set of agents, we should add a coordinating or Council to plan and a follow-up Committee that would give independent progress for each project.

This form may be reproduced to a greater or lesser extent, but your essence must contain the expectation resulting from such diversity and adversity that is a city and that is satisfactory to the interests of the collectivity, never in favour of speculation, even of those who profit from inside information or influence (personal, economic and legal).

### 4 GOMM PARK

"The community and civic experience of the Gomm's Park's -even if not a park there was -a victory for the whole city. From 2013, curitibanos from of every neighbourhood, of all ages and from various political groupings come together, occupy, sow, reap, sing, paint, composted, swap, join pieces, interact, take care and live in PEACE in a modest symbol of the resumption of urban planning of Curitiba. This is-and will remain-to Help The Gomm's House Bosk (SBDCG), not just in a tiny Park at Batel, but in the whole city."

The collective, SBDCG (who 're-proposed' the creation of the Park), managed to develop with the IPPUC, a project in which everyone agreed, though, after all this a new deception, there were news that contradict this agreement.

“Yes, the Park project deployment now devastated what we had sown (literally) and does not reflect the needs and desires of the community. Park's draw was signed in 2014 by public authorities and citizens was refurbished by the municipal government, which decided in 2015-2016 for composing politically and with the coordination of the Cultural Heritage of the State of Paraná the existence illegal parking site enclosing all areas and 'confiscate' to the city 2/3 Gomm's Park. In other words, the city kicked, back a step and succumbed to the autocratic wishes of 'State House', doing 'overlook' for trespassing by the municipal State Parking ...

... And the emergency way? Ah, the emergency way!

In place of simple cobblestones seated in sand at the same level of the grass, ran a base and highway infrastructure, with meters of excavations and gravel. A plan mapped out not to think of a fanciful road evacuation of the Mall, but a 'Trojan Horse' in future paving and 'binarization' in the area-large enterprises that disfigure the four corners of the city, promote a excluding a city urbanism unsustainable ...

... The House is even more segregated and sealed without the landscape values. The visual effect of a 'turkey at sourcer', tells Mrs. Irene Gomm, the last resident of the House still in life, was sharp. If the House was already tight 'in' a real estate registration too small, the emergency way just squeezed more.”

It is observed in these reports, as well as in the history of the century-old property, which always aroused interest because your privileged location, and your high ecological, cultural and economic content, and increased disputes between various urban actors, that governance was very shy throughout the period in which the House was no longer a House of the aristocracy and became the object of these interests since, by one way, created all protection mechanisms, with a public decree, by other, gave way to the subdivision and to trading with speculative capital.

“Found in the records of the action filed against Municipality, Soifer, Group Paraná State and Municipal Secretary of Environment in the 5th Public Farm Curitiba audience. Was presented by the State of Paraná in your rebuttal to that action and is part of the administrative process of tipping the House Gomm and your Woods (started in 1987 and that would occur in 1988).

In it can see a plant may 1987 (figure 3), prepared by Roberto Requião (Mayor of Curitiba) management IPPUC, named 'PARQUE DO BATEL'.

According to the master plan of this park, the area that would later be knocked over (whose owner was Soifer, Berman & Cia Ltda.-19,430 m<sup>2</sup>) and TWO MORE areas of other owners (Egon Alwis Mueller and Marese Lanconi, respectively with 2,818 m<sup>2</sup> and 1,002 m<sup>2</sup>) – all in a grand total of 23,250, m<sup>2</sup> -would be aimed at creating a beautiful complex environmental, cultural and leisure in the midst of the city's central area.

The House Gomm and your garage both in their historical positions would be fully restored original and intended for a Museum, library, library and video room. In other existing buildings would be deployed a restaurant with terrace for outdoor tables, a tea house, an outer deck, etc.

In addition to the existing Forest, would be planted new trees and shrubs and lawns to deployed flowered walks and contemplation. And note well: connecting the two sections of Hermes Fontes Street would be made with a hiking trail for PEDESTRIANS and cyclists, of little width and integrated into nature.

A beautiful outdoor stage and amid the trees would be destined to small musical events. Banks for passers-by would be equipped with hearing sound of music in headphones (!).”



Figure 3 : Schematic of the Parque do Batel-IPPUC (1987) source: SBDG, own Edition

In 1989, the public decree The House, the Bosk, the Valley of the River, began to throb as limiters of the interests of the new owner of these 19,430 m2 situated on Avenida Batel, 1829, acquired four years earlier.

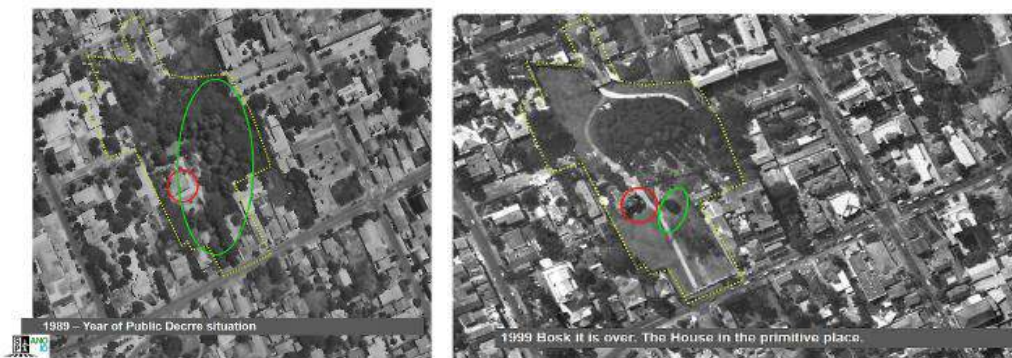


Figure 4: source: 1989 ENGEFOTO File, own Edition | Figure 5: source: IPPUC 1999 – database, own Edition



Figure 6: source: IPPUC 2003-database, own Edition



Figure 7: source: HERE Maps-Nokia 2016, own Edition

This graphical sequence, well presented, since the decree signed in 1989 (Figure 4); When put into gear the 'bypass' in 1999 (Figure 5); the change of place of home (which nearly ended up in agronomics, at school of the Wood Engineering), in 2003 (Figure 6); and finally, the denouement of the Mall and the formalization of the Park in 2016 (Figure 7), synthesis in chronological order, the administrative inefficiency and the power of capital.

It remains therefore applaud the collective SBDCG, your determination and power of conquest, although having to accept the charges and have to swallow the interference of those who have the pen in hand to sign decrees, because without this good roll and mobilization the Park hardly exist.



Figure 8: Gomm's Park design and signed by all – SBDCG

“For now, Gomm's Park is still a sketch, in the municipal decree signed by Gustavo Fruet (mayor) – this, a documentary and legal victory of the movement.

In the real world, the Park (Figure 8) would have us swallow is not the Park we used four years ago, in an obvious symptom of disconnection of public (regional and local) with the community they claim to represent.”

## 5 THE CASE OF CURITIBA (IS NOT BY A CHANCE...)

Curitiba, enjoys international renown due to the deployment and subsequent implementation of the master plan of urbanism of 1965, prepared under the direction of architect Jorge Wilhelm who contributed a new way of doing things, opposed to the guidelines of the 'Plan Agache -it was envisioned under the concept of urban's functional zoning -to the idea of growth along the structural axes.

The result of this strategic plan, the IPPUC (Institute of Urban Planning and Research of Curitiba) as a body designed to draw the future strategies and urban interventions for the city, in addition to proposing certain immediate actions that were performed by the city.

Between this, actions, already in the early 1970 the closing car circulation of a number of streets in the Centre, around the 'XV de Novembro' Street and the creation of structural axes, were later circling the 'express'

These urban trends were the vanguard, which later came to be the object of playing in cities of the five continents and which made the projection in the city of Curitiba, as a role model.

The city, proceeded to make a fuss of its achievements and modernity. In the years 1980 if the self-titled debut 'ecological capital' and in the late 1990, with the new paradigms of participatory governance the 'social capital', but a series of articles and thesis, demonstrate the opposite, that there was no environmental improvement and social capital of Paraná, even a big city-marketing around that occurred at that time, for almost three decades.

In counterpoint, a belated initiative of the State Government, through the Department of Water Resources and Environment, tried fruitlessly to spread the idea of creation and implementation Local Agenda 21, including an international seminar, celebrating in Ponta Grossa, along with the UEPG, which later gave rise to a document called 'PARANÁ – 2010 SUSTAINABLE PACT', where some general guidelines were agreed in the thematic tables points of debate during the seminar in screen.

In Curitiba, the lack of mechanisms of citizen participation promoters if notes in most performances of the municipality. Although there is the call for participation in the LOA (Annual Budget), occurs in reckless and shy, with diffusion of press releases on the web, often with little time, sometimes in difficult times, the same occurring with the 'public hearings', both mandatory practices according to the status of cities law.

Performances as the bidding of public transportation in 2010 and the proposal for a subway to Curitiba (2009), which had a boot with the project of the 'modern tramway' (1992), demonstrated a predisposition of municipal administration, to limit exclusively to law enforcement, with regard to participatory mechanisms. In the case of the bidding of public transportation, this came to occur only after judicial sentence, and 10 years of the start of past demand filed by prosecutors.

The results provided insignificant improvements to the collective.

In the case of public transport, this new regiment has given to those who were already the system operators, a status that until then had not, the dealers of public transportation (they were just with permission to explore, the concession was the URBS ) and were almost as much 25 years perpetuated.

For the subway, with poor project to the city, which just replaces the modal BRT by subway, implying in costly disorders, during the works and low benefit, beyond just the increasing transport capacity and some reduction of air pollution; When through a project of this size, with a new track, it could perform an urban transformation in underserved areas or degraded in the city.

In both cases, public hearings, not translated or contributed anything to the project, which was already consummated. There was no even an initial exposure than it was intended to accomplish, to be discussed, there was no debate, no discussion, and of course there was low turnout.

Prior to that, previously to the landmarks of citizen participation (Letter of Alborg, 1994) could be saw a case – the 'Connector 5' or the 'New Curitiba' or 'Ecoville' (1972) – which also raises comments on the appropriation of the speculative capital over the city, a mega refurbishment operation of land use.

Make use of fragments of my DEA Thesis to report the case.



“From the 'Campina do Siqueira', passing by 'Mossunguê and reaching the 'Campo Comprido', became what until then were areas of little farms and inhabited, in 1974, sanctioned law No. 4,773 defining a new zoning for the city and creating the connector routes (which already existed physically in a total of four and the proposition of a new connector, with a special zoning) for the purpose of spatial integration with the Industrial City (CIC).

The initial proposal for the deployment of this new axis, format and constructive potential of structural axes, would be to build houses for the new CIC workers who come from other regions of the State or the Country.

For the implementation, in the late 1970, would be taken two distinct programs and funding agents, one of them the BID (Inter-American Development Bank) for implementation of the road system and another through the BNH (National Housing Bank) for the construction of housing estates over these.

The first line of credit was contracted, but the second, inexplicably, was left aside, for reasons apparently unknown, but you can think of a clear goal: large enterprises and real estate speculation, which resulted in the present day”

“Governance has to be legality and not private interests. The privilege of information is at the service of private interest” Further, recently, the revision of the master plan: The revision of the Curitiba master plan, began at IPPUC, in 28 March, and provided for public consultation, in the period from April 12 to 15 August 2014 for submitting questions, criticism and suggestions. Also the Forum of the Curitiba master plan that had your first public hearing in 15 April 2014.

The series of ten public hearings and six groups of studies, events that made up the Forum, intended to support and collaborate with the discussions surrounding the Curitiba master plan review, planned for the year 2014. The Forum was open to all entities and municipalities organised civil society and has been a Commission proposal of town planning and public works of the city of Curitiba.

“So, as a corollary, that as much as administrations, professional associations, trade unions, academies, citizens associations have to do with any participatory process to occur, these attempts are either shy, or devoid of vanity, enough to make advances that are not only self-serving, undermining dialogue and the general interest”

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## **ID 1386 | AN INDOOR SOUNDSCAPE SURVEY ON THE USER'S COPING METHODS FOR NOISE ANNOYANCE, DISTURBANCE AND LOSS OF CONCENTRATION IN PUBLIC STUDY AREAS**

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### **1 INTRODUCTION**

During last decades, group study areas has started to be a common feature, especially in libraries. Unlike a traditional library, where the students are delivered library services, these spaces are encourage students to take command of their own (Bennett, 2007). These spaces are also popular especially among undergraduate students as they incorporate academic work and social activities by providing informal grounds (Applegate, 2009; Bryant, et. al., 2009). The flexibility of usage allowed open learning spaces to be used for both collaborative and individual study. In contrast with the strict silent zones of traditional library study areas, these informal study areas are prone to possible issues regarding the sound environment.

In silent study areas, sound levels can become a source of frustration (Çankaya & Yilmazer, 2016; Harrop & Turpin, 2013), but in the informal public study areas, the students can get to adapt the sound levels even though it possible gets much higher than silent zones (Bryant et al., 2009). It was also expressed by the students that sound levels expressed a positive contribution to the social identity of space in open learning areas (Harrop & Turpin, 2013). This positive contribution to the place identity is not solely caused by the sound levels but by the expectation which is highly related with the context of sound environment. With this regard, the acoustic environment of the public study areas should not be evaluated solely based on the sound levels, but also with the individuals' perception of the soundscape.